

Mr. Hendrix devotes time and money to support the local 4-H and his optimistic outlook for agriculture is noticed and appreciated by all in the farm community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the distinguished service to agriculture and the State of North Carolina of Earl Hendrix for his leadership and professional commitment to stewardship of the land and providing food and fiber to the world.

#### TRIBUTE TO PHELICIA JONES

##### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 1999*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Phelicia Jones, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

Phelicia Jones is the Project Coordinator for the San Mateo County Nia Mentoring Program, a program which provides both personal and professional guidance for African American youth. Phelicia has overcome both family tragedy and a drug addiction to become a positive role model for others to emulate. Through the Twilight Basketball for Youth program, Phelicia works with at-risk youth to help them avoid many of the same pitfalls she encountered. She has also been instrumental in establishing a crime prevention program benefiting young girls through the Sisters in Style program.

While a student at the College of San Mateo, she earned a 3.75 grade point average and went on to earn a Bachelors Degree from the College of Notre Dame, while simultaneously being actively involved in student government and community affairs. She is currently pursuing a Masters Degree at San Francisco State University and working toward a Drug and Alcohol Certificate.

Mr. Speaker, Phelicia Jones is an outstanding woman and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 1999*

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 16, 1999, I was conducting official business in my congressional district and missed rollcall votes 50, 51, and 52. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

#### HONORING COLORADO BOYS STATE BASKETBALL 2A CHAMPIONS—CALICHE HIGH SCHOOL

##### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartiest congratulations to the

Caliche High School boys basketball team on their impressive Colorado State 2A Championship. The victory, a hard fought 54-50 win over Hoehne High School, was a thrilling contest between two talented and deserving teams. In championship competition, though, one team must emerge victorious, and Caliche proved themselves the best in their class—truly second to none.

The State 2A Championship is the highest achievement in high school basketball. This coveted trophy symbolizes more than just the team and its coach, Rocky Samber, as it also represents the staunch support of the players' families, fellow students, school personnel and the community. From how on, these people can point to the 1998-1999 boys basketball team with pride, and know they were part of a remarkable athletic endeavor. Indeed, visitors to this town and school will see a sign proclaiming the Boys State 2A Championship, and know something special had taken place there.

The Caliche basketball squad is a testament to the old adage that the team wins games, not individuals. The combined talents of these players coalesced into a dynamic and dominant basketball force. Each team member also deserves to be proud of his own role. These individuals are the kind of people who lead by example and serve as role-models. With the increasing popularity of sports among young people, local athletes are heroes to the youth in their home towns. I admire the discipline and dedication these high schoolers have shown in successfully pursuing their dream.

The memories of this storied year will last a lifetime. I encourage all involved, but especially the Caliche players, to build on this experience by dreaming bigger dreams and achieving greater successes. I offer my best wishes to this team as they move forward from their State 2A Championship to future endeavors.

#### ENCOURAGING MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE DRUG TRAFFICKERS

##### HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 1999*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reiterate the commitment of my colleagues and I to win the war on drugs and encourage the Mexican government to cooperate with our efforts.

Recently a Mexican judge dismissed charges against two drug kingpins, Jesus and Luis Amezcua-Contreras. These brothers have both been indicated on narcotics charges by federal grand juries in separate cases in Southern California. Mexico has claimed for years now to be allies of the United States in the war against drugs, but the fact of the matter is that the Mexican government has yet to extradite a national drug kingpin for trial in the United States to date.

Mr. Speaker the fact is that United States drug laws are stricter than those in Mexico and drug criminals fear our judicial system. We must send a message to our neighbors to the south and these criminals that we will not be intimidated or weak willed when dealing with this serious issue.

It is vitally important for the United States to continue to stand firm in our commitment to win the war on drugs. Without the full cooperation of our neighbors, we have little chance of meeting this goal. The United States, and southern California in particular, cannot afford yielding in our efforts to stop the flow of illegal drugs over our borders and into the hands of our children.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Mexican government to release drug traffickers which have been indicted by our government back to United States officials so they can be properly tried in our country. We must protect our children from such diabolic criminals.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY HARRIS EVANS

##### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 1999*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Harris Evans, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

Mary Harris Evans has a rich and varied background as a professional and a volunteer. While attending California College of Podiatric Medicine, Mary founded an outreach program at Laguna Honda Hospital and treated senior citizens in their homes at no charge. Mary is now a Financial Advisor and Retirement Specialist with Dean Witter, where she assists clients with the management of their portfolios. Throughout her career, Mary has always made a great commitment to volunteerism, most notably fifteen years service to the California 4-H.

Mary also serves as President of the American Baptist Women of the West and helped found the African-American Community Health Advisory Committee. Mary is also a trained mediator and was recently instrumental in helping Mrs. Tom Lantos put together a Homeless Theater Project.

Mr. Speaker, Mary Harris Evans is an outstanding woman and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

#### THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NURSE APPRECIATION ACT OF 1999

##### HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 23, 1999*

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, imagine if the Congress singled out a mostly female workforce of 39,000 federal employees and, under suspension, passed legislation that:

allowed the workers to go up to 5 years in a row without a single raise;

allowed them to have their pay cut by as much as 8% in a single year;

or provided for an annual increase as minuscule as one-tenth of one percent.

Now imagine that a president not only signed this measure into law, but that it's been